SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2004 GUIDE

CONTENTS: Activities page 3 Traffic Delays page 5
Highlights & Services in Sequoia pages 4 & 5
Highlights & Services in Kings Canyon & USFS pages 6 & 7
Camping, Lodging, & Storing Food from Bears pages 8 & 9
Map page 12 Road & Safety Tips / Finding gasoline (not in the parks), page 11

Bird locally, act globally

"Los chipes," they call them in Central America, since *cheep* is all the little birds have to say down there.

Several months and thousands of miles later, they trill, buzz, whistle, and chirp their little hearts out in Sequoia and Kings Canyon - hence the English name "warblers." They move between two worlds, and they need to be safe in both of them if their songs are to be enjoyed by our children.

Migratory birds present a real conservation challenge. They survive winter by heading to warmer climes that have plentiful food. Come spring, they return to the breeding and nesting grounds that are best for them. This is their season of song, when they call to mates and announce their territories. If habitat is damaged in either place - or at important stopping points between - the birds are in trouble.

American bird biologists at work in Kings Canyon, thanks to Park Flight.. ©NPS Photo

How can we help to preserve habitat that is a world away in distance, language, and government? Partnerships like "Park Flight" are helping to make it possible. Sponsored by American Airlines, it aides government and private agencies, universities, and other professionals in working together on this challenge.

Park Flight assists parks and other protected areas in the U.S. and Latin America to preserve migratory birds in two ways. It directly supports monitoring and management of birds, and it funds efforts to educate park visitors, neighbors, and staff about what's at stake and how to help.

One exciting aspect of Park Flight is the personnel exchange, according to Rachel Mazur, a wildlife biologist at these parks. One of the early participants in Park Flight, she has taught Latin American bird biologists in Honduras, and been taught by them here in the U.S. "We share technical resources, training, educational materials, and data about birds," says Rachel, "and along the way we learn each other's language, food, and culture."

The first parks to host an exchange biologist, Sequoia-Kings Canyon remains one of the few that hosts non-English speakers. "This is how we learned the name 'los chipes'," said Rachel. Funded by Park Flight, biologists from Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Mexico assisted these parks with bird studies and public education. At the same time, they delighted in hearing the rich, complicated songs that warblers sing on this side of the Equator.

Several songbirds that we think of as belonging to the Sierra make their way to Central America for the winter. Hermit and Yellow-rumped warblers, Swainson's thrushes, and the colorful Western tanagers fly there. The brilliant, indigo-hued Western bluebirds winter in Mexico.

"It's so much fun to see - or hear - which bird just got back and think about where they've been," Rachel says. "Birding is such a great hobby. You can do it anywhere, it's free, and you don't have to be an athlete. Do it alone or make it a social event!"

Large partnerships such as Park Flight can help migratory birds, but so can you. "Each of us really can make a difference. Anything you do that helps another bird make it back to its breeding ground is positive," says Rachel. "It can be as simple as preventing cats from catching birds, keeping birds from hitting your windows, and slowing down for birds flying across roadways."

Twice a year these little birds fly across the face of the earth. They inspire us with their beauty and song. With a little effort on our part, we can make sure that they have safe places to land.

Note: Saturday, May 8 is International Migratory Bird Day! Check bulletin boards for schedules of special programs offered here in the parks.

WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

INFORMATION NUMBERS

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
(no coins needed)

24-Hour Park Information
(NPS) – 559-565-3341
www.nps.gov/seki

National Forest Information (FS)
559-338-2251
www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia

Yosemite Information (NPS)
209-372-0200
www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions
(Caltrans) 1-800-427-7623

Partners in the Parks

The following groups work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark.* Printed by the Selma Enterprise, it is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA):

- National Park Service (NPS)
  Malinee Crapsey, Editor
  559-565-3341
  www.nps.gov/seki
- Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)
  559-565-3759
  www.sequoiahistory.org
- Forest Service (FS)
  559-784-1500
  www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia
- Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC)
  559-565-4070
  www.visitsequoia.com
- Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)
  866-KCANYON (522-6966)
  www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com
- US Geological Survey (USGS)
  559-565-3171
  www.werc.usgs.gov

Page 1 illustrations ©NPS by Rick Wheeler

Get to know your parks

Given the park's names, you expect giant trees and spectacular canyons — and you won't be disappointed. But the whole of this place is even greater than the sum of its great parts.

Ranging from 1300' to 14,494', these parks encompass a huge elevational range. This impressive span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot, dry foothills to shady mid-elevation forests to the chilly high Sierra. It means an extraordinarily diverse collection of plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering the two national parks is a national monument that is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) ensures that books and maps are available for sale at visitor centers and contributes to education and research here. The Sequoia Fund supports other significant projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to accomplish a challenging mission — to provide for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations.

You are an equally important partner! Experience the parks fully by learning all you can about them, and join in preserving them. Together we can succeed in meeting their inspiring mission:

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Expect Change

We often think of parks as outdoor museums, but caretaking a living ecosystem is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit; trees fall and buildings change. Park management tools may or may not affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone-monitoring equipment that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities. Some of them may unavoidably affect your visit: smoke from a prescribed fire or a campsite closed due to revegetation or intense bear activity.

These actions are important tools in maintaining this landscape, and in protecting its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you a snapshot of the year-round process of park management. Nature may decide the timing of many of these activities, but they all share one goal: preservation of these parks for people now *and* in the future.

ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

Ask at entrance stations about the following:

- *7-day pass* for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): $10 per vehicle or $5 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- *Annual pass* for Sequoia, Kings Canyon, & the Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (Giant Sequoia National Monument): $20.
- *National Parks Pass*: $50 pass admits all passengers in a private vehicle to all U.S. national parks for one year from date of purchase. Not redeemable at Crystal Cave. Also available via 1-888-GO-PARKS and www.nationalparks.org.
- *Golden Eagle Pass*: $65 pass not only for national parks, but also for entrance fees at all federal monuments, historic sites, recreation areas & wildlife refuges. Also honored at National Forests charging for use of high-impact recreation areas. Valid for one year from date of purchase.
- *Golden Age Passport*: A one-time $10 fee buys this lifetime pass to all national parks for U.S. citizens & residents aged 62 or over.
- *Golden Access Pass*: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens & residents. Bring appropriate documentation to any park visitor center.

WELCOME!

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

BIENVENUE!

Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

BIENVENIDOS!

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

WILKOMMEN!

Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucherzentrum erhaltlich.

BENVENUTI!

La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument? You see signs for all them them in this area!

All are on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

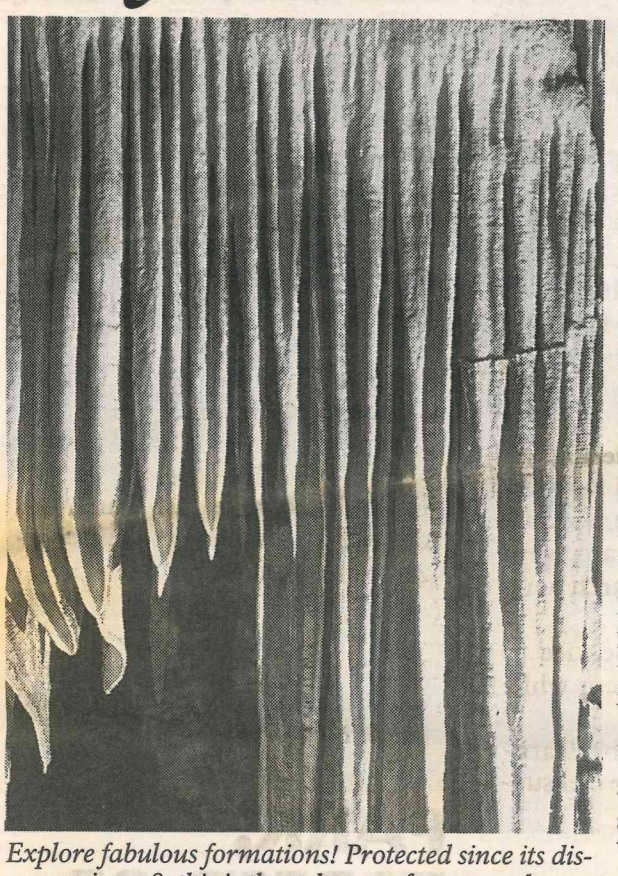
National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations. They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation. Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, and recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.

Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I...?" on the next page to check what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we are lucky to enjoy the wide range of benefits these diverse areas can offer.

Crystal Cave Rocks!



Explore fabulous formations! Protected since its discovery in 1918, this is the only one of over 200 known caves in these parks that can be toured. ©NPS Photo

Tickets are NOT sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours in advance of your tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance on Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see map on page 12). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m).

Use restrooms and drinking water at the parking lot; these are not available at the cave. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Bring a jacket; the cave is 50°F (10°C).

No strollers, tripods, or backpacks; not wheelchair accessible. Schedules are subject to change. Ask about Wild Cave Tours and group reservations! Tours operated by SNHA.

Daily 45-minute tours start Saturday, May 8!

Weekends - 11am-4pm on the hour through June 11, then on the 1/2-hour. On Memorial Day weekend tours every half-hour: Saturday-Sunday 10am-5pm, Monday 10am-4pm. Other weekends, tours may be added at 10 & 10:30am and 4:30 & 5pm.

Weekdays - 11am, noon, 3pm, 4pm through June 11, then 11am-4pm on the half hour.

Fees - Ages 6-12 $5; age 13-61 $10; age 62 & up, $8; under 6 free. National Park & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a 50% discount! All fees go to help the parks.

2-hour Discovery Tours start June 13!

4:15 pm daily except Saturdays - Limited to 12 people aged 13 & up. $18 each ($16 ages 62 & up; $12 for SNHA members).

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

WALKS & TALKS In spring, free walks and talks may be offered on weekends at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Wuksachi, the Foothills, & Grant Grove. Check bulletin boards for activity schedules. Daily activities start in mid-to-late June. See pages 5 & 7 for details.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Your purchases help to support the parks!

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! To get started, purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS - BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Rangers offer curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology & caves, sequoias, & Native Americans. Call 559-565-4303 to reserve a date for a fun, interactive program!

Activities

SEQUOIA FIELD INSTITUTE!

Enjoy these parks better than ever – try the Sequoia Field Institute! Choose from their wide variety of programs: indoor and outdoor seminars, nature hikes, backpacking, school trips, and environmental education. In winter learn cross-country skiing, spend a day exploring on snowshoes, or try winter camping!

Housed in the Beetle Rock Education Center in Giant Forest, the Institute also arranges special educational packages for your club, school, group, or extended family. Whether you are new to the parks or an old hand, there is something for you at the Field Institute.

The Institute offers low fees, and any profits go to support park education and science programs. Pick up a course catalog at any visitor center or contact the non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA), which operates the Institute: www.sequoiahistory.org OR john_lockhart@sequoiahistory.org OR 559-565-4251.

WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different types of areas - a National Park and a National Forest. Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the surrounding Forest. See page 2 to learn why this is so, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET** *In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads).* In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. *In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave them in hot cars.*
- **RIDE A BICYCLE** *In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail.* In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.*
- **GO CAMPING** *In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds.* In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.
- **CUT WOOD** *Not in the Parks.* In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
- **GO FISHING** *In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.*
- **FEED WILDLIFE** *In both areas: Don't do it! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous; some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*
- **HAVE A FIRE** *In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas.* In National Forest: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump Entrance Station, or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*
- **COLLECT THINGS** *Not in the Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem.* In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.*
- **GO PICNICKING** See picnic symbols on map (back-page). *Never leave food unattended!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, and Powdercan.
- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES** *Not in the Parks.* In National Forest: Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat & Cherry Gap.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

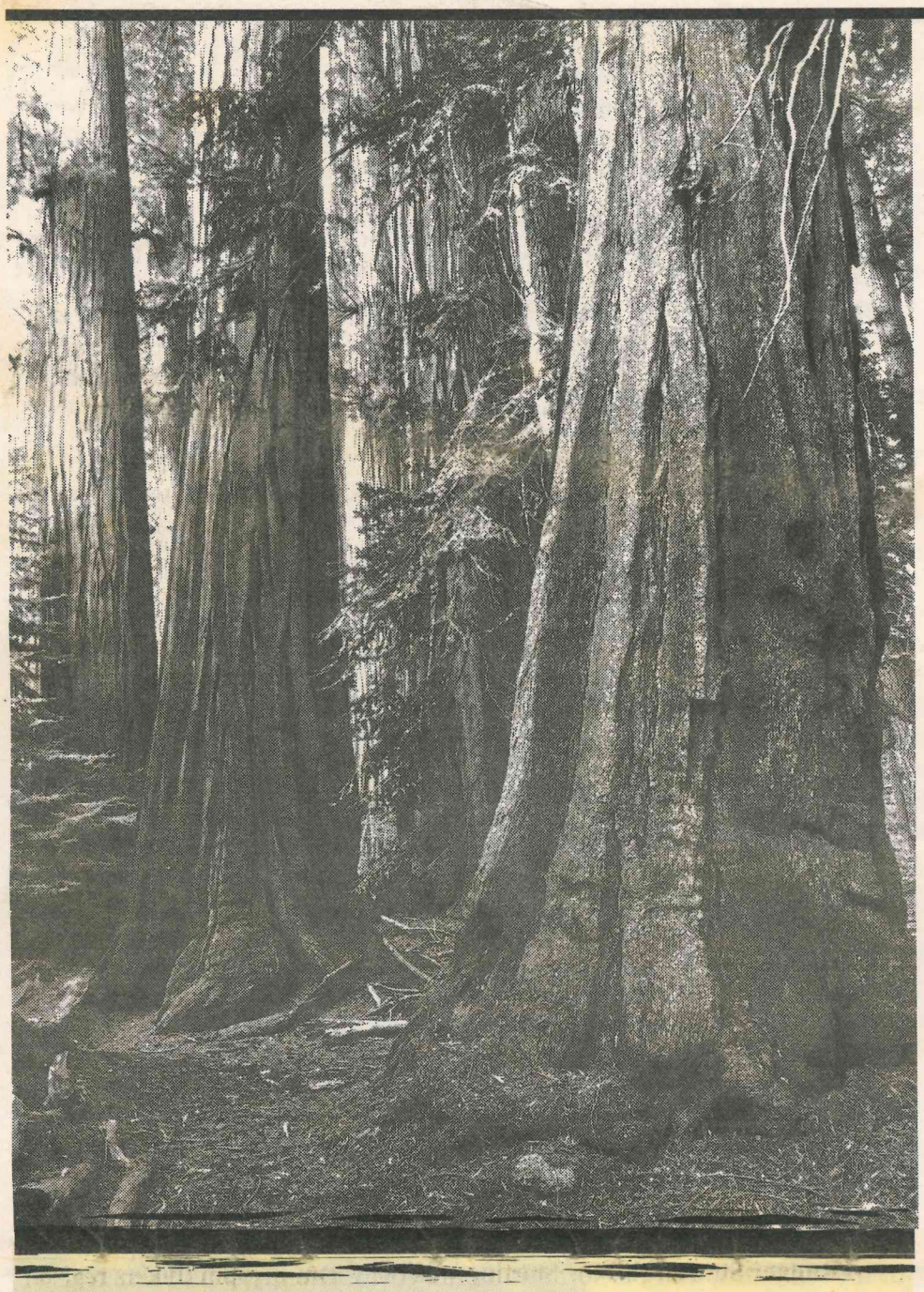
Opening dates are weather-dependent. Rides by-the-hour & backcountry trips.

Cedar Grove - open by 5/28
559-565-3464 summer
559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove - possibly by late May; 559-335-9292 summer
559-337-2314 off season

Mineral King
Call the park for information:
559-565-3106

Horse Corral (in National Forest/Monument) - open 5/22.
Please call for reservations.
559-565-3404 summer
559-564-6429 off season
559-679-3573 cell



Highlights

SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST

In early spring, ask a ranger if snow still covers the trails that interest you. **Review the safety tips** on page 11. Take a map, warm clothes, sunglasses, and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the woods — be safe and enjoy!

Later this season, trail restoration and construction near the Sherman Tree may affect access to this giant. If you are planning a visit and want more information, please call the park: 559-565-3341.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: Two miles (3.2 km) north of the Giant Forest Museum. A short walk to the world's largest tree, named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. A huge sequoia cross-section nearby illustrates the connection between sequoias and fire.

BIG TREES TRAIL: Opening with the snow melt, this 2/3-mile (1 km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum and follow the wheelchair-accessible trail from there. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours round trip.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Excellent for first-time visitors. Allow 1-2 hours.

ALONG THE MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road opens when the snow melts. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway & explores the southwest portion of the grove. Not recommended for trailers or RVs. Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot/91 m elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide & the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through (a bypass is available for larger vehicles). The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, & the High Sierra Trail, which runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet /4417 m; highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive your car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to this old tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Be careful around the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground, 500 foot/152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

THE FOOTHILLS

These lower elevations host more different kinds of plants and animals than the rest of the park. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA: Western Mono people once lived here. Exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle and a trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful by the river! Drownings have occurred here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail ends 3.9 miles (6km) up from Potwisha Campground at a lovely cascade after climbing through chaparral-covered terrrain. Park near site #14 at the Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. Watch for the trail's start along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Follow the footpath across from site #26 in Buckeye Flat Campground across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over one mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparal to the highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Take the road toward Buckeye Flat Campground. Turn left on the dirt road before the campground; go 1.3 miles (2 km) to the trailhead parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5km) up the trail.

SOUTH FORK

Tiny South Fork Campground is at the end of a 13-mile road that leaves Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

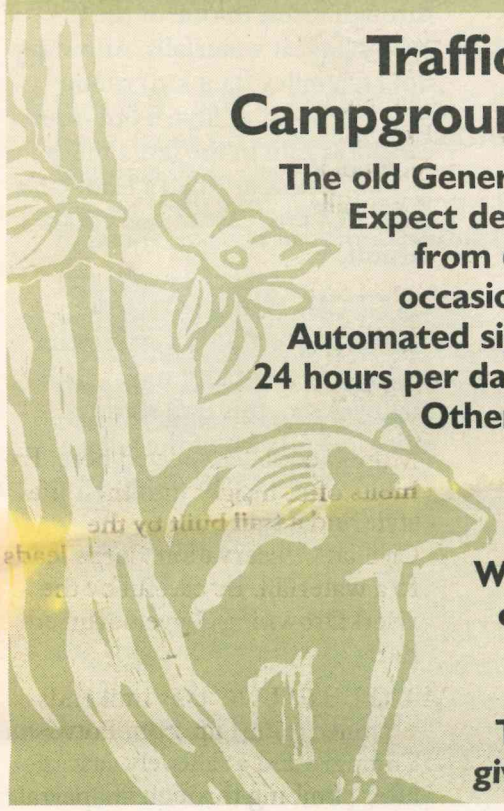
LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5 mile (8.3km) one-way climb to this sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

MINERAL KING

The winding, steep road to this valley, open May 28 to October 31, ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails, too numerous to list here, lead to higher country and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Some trails may remain snowy through spring. Ask a ranger for information about the area. Be sure to learn about its marmots, as they often damage cars.

SERVICES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK



Traffic Delays: Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest

The old Generals Highway is under repair! Expect delays totalling up to one hour from 6am - 6pm on weekdays and occasional Saturdays through June. Automated signal lights stop traffic briefly 24 hours per day where one lane is blocked. Other than the automatic signals, no delays are expected on weekends or holidays. Avoid overheated brakes! When stopped, keep your foot off the brake pedal. Put your vehicle in PARK and set the emergency brake. Thanks for slowing down and giving workers plenty of room.

Lodgepole Area

LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. This village is a few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. See page 3 and your map for nearby picnic areas. Lodgepole Village offers:

INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Visitor Center:** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/27 then 8am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting in late June. Starting 5/8, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits & a slide program on geology & forest life; books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4436.
- ***Wilderness Permits:*** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Self-register outside the visitor center through 5/27. Starting 5/28 go to the permit office daily 7am-4pm. 559-565-4408.
- **Walter Fry Nature Center:** Opens mid-June, weekends noon-5pm.

FOOD & SHOPS (DNCPR)

- **Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop:** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/6; 9am-6pm 5/7-20; then 8am-8pm. Supplies, emergency gasoline, bear canisters, gifts, premade sandwiches, ice cream.
- **Snack Bar:** Weekends only 9am-4:30pm through 5/21, then daily 8am-8pm. Breakfast, hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza.
- **Deli:** Opens 5/22. Daily 11am-6pm. Sandwiches, salads.

OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Campground** (NPS): Open all year. Details on page 9.
- **Laundry** (DNCPR): Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/6; 9am-6pm 5/7-20; then 8am-8pm. Last load of laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 559-565-3678. Lobby with stamp machine open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

WUKSACHI VILLAGE

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Open year-round. Just 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree. The center for lodging, food services, and winter-recreation equipment in Sequoia Park.

FOOD, SHOPS & LODGING (DNCPR)

- **Dining Room:** Through 5/20, breakfast 7:30-9:30am; lunch 11:30am-2:30pm; dinner 5-9pm. Starting 5/21, 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm & 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 559-565-4070.
- **Lounge: Daily** 4-10pm through 5/20, then 4-11pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-7pm through 5/20, then 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, art, snacks, limited groceries.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 8 for details.

WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200' (2160 m) elevation. This open grassy area is just 2 miles (3.2km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

FOOD (DNCPR)

- **Barbecue:** Starting 6/18. All-you-can-eat meal served outdoors.

Giant Forest Area

GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home to the world's biggest trees, this grove has seen extensive restoration. It offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. See page 4 for highlights. Check page 3 and your map for picnic areas.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am-4:30pm through 5/27 then 8am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting in late June. Explore exhibits about the amazing Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 559-565-4480.

CRYSTAL CAVE - Daily tours starting May 8

This cavern is one of the highlights of the park! Tickets are **not** sold at the cave; see page 3 for details and schedule.

Foothills Area

1500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. A land of oaks, chaparral, and river canyons, hot summers and snow-free winters, the foothills have the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is here at Ash Mountain. In addition to picnic areas (page 3), the foothills offer:

- **Visitor Center** (NPS): Daily 8am-4:30pm through 5/27, then 8am-5pm. Open until 6pm starting late June. Starting 5/8, Crystal Cave tickets sold until 3:45pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground** (NPS): Year-round. Details on page 9.

Mineral King Area - opens May 28

Be aware: In spring & early summer, marmots may chew on hoses & wiring in cars parked in upper Mineral King. Ask a ranger for information.

7800' (2380 m) elevation. Until 5/28, the winter gate is closed 17 miles (28km) from Highway 198. Mineral King is a beautiful subalpine river valley, at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road (no RVs, buses, or trailers, please). There is no electricity or gasoline in the area. In addition to a picnic area, Mineral King offers:

- **Ranger Station** (NPS): Starting 5/28 daily 8am-4:30pm (hikers register for wilderness permits on the porch until then). A small visitor center with exhibits on area history, books, maps, local wilderness permits, first aid, & bear canisters. 559-565-3768.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Opens 5/28, weather permitting. Cabins, chalets. Restaurant, bakery, showers & small store (gifts, limited supplies & ice; no gasoline or fishing licenses) 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-5pm (restaurant closed). Summer 559-561-3223; winter 805-528-2730. www.silvercityresort. com.
- **Camping** (NPS): First night 5/28. No RVs or trailers. Details on page 9.

NATURE PROGRAMS

At Giant Forest, Lodgepole & Wuksachi, rangers may offer evening talks on Saturdays as well as some weekend walks through mid-June (no programs May 6, 22, 23, June 5). Check bulletin boards for schedules. On Memorial Day weekend, look for programs offered on Saturday, Sunday & Monday. Starting mid-June, we begin to offer daily programs in several areas.

Weekend wildflower walks are given in the foothills.

Highlights

KINGS CANYON

GRANT GROVE

Before hiking to the trail, review safety advice on page 11. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water, and tell someone where you are going.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: The world's third-largest living tree. Presi-dent Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christ-mas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.48 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD: Spectacular vista of the high Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) southeast of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and the high Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

REDWOOD CANYON: The world's largest grove of sequoias. Acres of rejuvenating forest resulting from 30 years of prescribed fires show the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/ Hume Lake junction (6 miles/9.6 km south of Grant Grove), turn south/west at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road (not plowed).

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, drive 8 miles (13 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove.

REDWOOD CANYON OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this looks west over one of the world's largest groves of sequoias. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoias.

KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take the time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge.

CANYON VIEW: The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village turnoff. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Purchase a trail guide at the trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END: Here where pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra.

TAKE TIME FOR A HIKE

MIST FALLS: Follow the river through forest to one of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; a 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End, 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km) east of the Village turnoff.

DON CECIL TRAIL: Once the main route to Cedar Grove prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180, this trail starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village. It climbs the north-facing slope, passing Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) and affording good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) provides an incredible panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Strenuous, it switchbacks up through chaparral to a forested ridge and Cedar Grove Overlook with gorgeous views up and down canyon. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Allow 3 to 4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore the Giant Sequoia National Monument within the Sequoia National Forest.

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair. Take Highway 180 north of Grant Grove 6 miles (9.6 km), then left on the graded dirt road. Ask a ranger for details.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic multiple-arch dam, supplied water for a flume that floated lumber to Sanger, 67 miles (108 km) below. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4km) trail encircles it. See page 5 for other recreational options there. 8 miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT: A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approxi-mately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road via Forest Road 13S04.

SERVICES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS AREAS

Grant Grove Area

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. Grant Grove was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s. In addition to picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3), the village offers:

INFORMATION

• **Visitor Center** (NPS): Daily 9am-4:30pm through 4/29, then 8am-5pm through 6/17. Starting 6/18, 8am-6pm. Exhibits & a 15-minute slide show on the area's natural & human history, books, maps, first aid. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm only. 559-565-4307.

FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

• **Restaurant**: *Through 5/27* - Weekdays 7:30am-2pm & 4:30-7pm (8pm on Friday); Saturday 7am-8pm, Sunday 7am-7pm. Pizza Saturday 5-9pm. *Starting 5/28* - Daily 7am-9pm. Pizza available daily noon-2pm & 5-10pm.
• **Gift Shop**: Daily 9am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/27, then 8am-9pm. Souvenirs, film, clothing. ATM in lobby.
• **Market**: Daily 9am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday) through 5/27, then 8am-9pm. Groceries, bear canisters, emergency gasoline, supplies.

OTHER SERVICES

• **Camping** (NPS) & **Lodging**: See page 8-9 for details.
• **Showers** (KCPS): Open 5/28, daily 11am-4pm.
• **Post Office**: Hours may vary. Through 5/8, Monday 9-11:30am, Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm & Saturday 10-12:30am. Starting 5/10, Monday-Friday 9am-3:30pm & Saturday 9am-12:30pm. Lobby & stamp machine open 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 559-335-2499.

Cedar Grove Area

CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

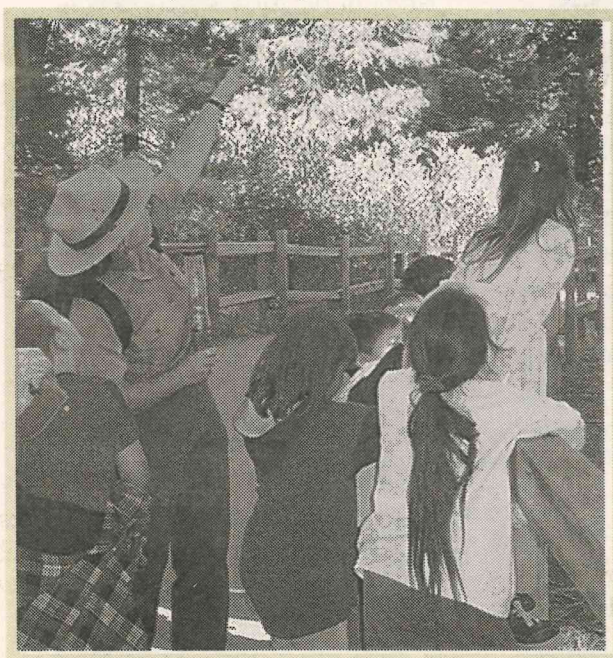
4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — "a rival to the Yosemite," according to John Muir. In addition to facilities listed below, in summer the area offers picnicking and horseback riding (see page 3).

INFORMATION

• **Visitor Center** (NPS): Open 5/28-30 (Memorial Day weekend) 9am-5pm. Starting 6/18, daily 9am-5pm. 559-565-3793.
•**Camping** (NPS): Details on page 9.

FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS) - **Open starting May 13**

• **Restaurant**: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. *From 5/13-6/10:* weekdays 7:30-10:30am & 5pm-7pm. Saturday-Sunday 7:30am-2pm & 5-7pm. *Starting 6/11,* daily 7am-2pm & 5pm-9pm. Lunch supplies available at market.
• **Gift Shop & Market**: Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. From 5/13-6/10: 7:30am-7pm. Starting 6/11, 7am-9pm.
• **Lodging**: First night open 5/13. See page 8 for details.
• **Showers & Laundry**: From 5/13-6/10: 8am-6pm. Starting 6/11, 8am-7pm. Last laundry load in by 1 hour before closing. Get shower key at market.



CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS IN SEPTEMBER!

On September 11, join us at the 6th Annual Celebrate Sequoias Festival in Grant Grove Village. Enjoy walks to less-visited groves, music, arts & crafts, kid's activities, and talking to experts about the awesome giant sequoias.

USFS: National Forest & Monument

HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in National Forest when you drive between the park areas of Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 for more on the difference between Park and Forest). The area was sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935. It is an excellent place to see recovery from intensive sequoia logging in the late 1800s. Snowy in winter, in summer it offers picnicking & horseback riding (see page 3) as well as:

INFORMATION

• **USFS Hume Lake District Office** (FS): 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon Park entrance at Big Stump. Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm. Open Saturday stating 5/22. Maps, books. 559-338-2251.

OTHER SERVICES

• **Camping** (FS) & **Lodging** (private): See pages 8-9 for details.
• **Boyden Cavern**: On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours on the hour 11am-4pm through May then 10am-5pm. $10 ages 14 & up; $5 ages 3-13; under 3 free. AAA discounts. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. 209-736-2708.
• **Stony Creek Village** (FS): Opens 5/20. Lodging, market, showers. *Through 6/10* - Market 7:30am-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday). Restaurant Wednesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday-Tuesday. Showers 8am-6pm.
Starting 6/11 - Market 7am-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday). Restaurant Tuesday-Sunday 11:30am-2pm & 5-8pm (9pm Friday-Saturday); closed Monday. Showers 8am-7pm.
• **Montecito-Sequoia Resort** (FS): A permitted resort on public land open year-round. On the Generals Highway, 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Restaurant: breakfast 8-9:30am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 6-7:30pm; longer hours starting in June. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 800-843-8677 or 559-565-3388.
• **Boat & Bicycle Rentals, Swimming, Fishing**: Private facilities open to public at Hume Lake, 8 miles (13km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180 then 3 miles (5km) south on Hume Lake Road. 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market daily 8am-12 & 1-5pm through mid-June, then weekdays 8am-10:30pm, Saturday 7am-7pm. Snack bar hours vary. Call for details and dates of rentals: 559-335-2000.

GASOLINE

• **Gas Sales** (private): At Stony Creek Village & Hume Lake Christian Camps (both 24 hours with credit card) and Kings Canyon Lodge (usually 9am-dark). See Mountain Driving, page 11, for more details.

Through Memorial Day weekend, rangers offer a Grant Tree Walk every Saturday at 2pm. Sunday walks start May 9. Meet at Grant Tree parking area for this one-hour, 3/8-mile stroll. No programs are offered June 1-13. Weekend Grant Tree walks resume June 19. Daily walks & campfire talks begin June 25. See bulletin boards for details.

May 8 is International Migratory Bird Day! Check visitor centers for the schedule of special programs & join in.

Memorial Day weekend: Saturday & Sunday campfire talks are given at Sunset Amphitheater at 8:30pm. Enjoy a one-hour talk or slide show; check bulletin boards for details.

NATURE PROGRAMS

Staying Overnight

CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the landscape & you!

NOTE: Some rules vary between the park & the national forest. Check bulletin boards for details.

KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Grant Grove Visitor Center, Big Stump entrance station, or a Forest Service ranger.

CAMPSITES VS DISPERSED CAMPING

In the park, camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

PROPANE CANISTERS

These cannot be thrown into park dumpsters or garbage cans. Please take them with you.

QUIET HOURS

10pm-6am. Use generators from 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available.

Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 15. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites.

Length advisory: On Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, a vehicle length limit of 22 feet is advised. See page 11 for other limitations & warnings.

Dump stations: See chart on page 9 for locations in parks. There are several stations outside the parks; ask for details at visitor centers.

GROUP CAMPSITES

Summer only. Call in advance for information on reserving group tent-camping areas in the parks: 1-800-365-2267; in the national forest/monument: 877-444-6777 or www.ReserveUSA.com.

LIMITS ON CAMPING

Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits. Parking is available for extra vehicles.

Camping is limited to 14 days between June 14-September 14, with 30 days total per year.

PROTECT THE PARK!

Do not use soaps in rivers, dig trenches, or level campsites. Protect soils & plants — park & travel on pavement only.

HOLDING CAMPSITES

In first-come, first-served campgrounds, you may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

BE A CAMP HOST!

Volunteer hosts help care for campgrounds & resources. Their reward: living in beautiful areas & meeting great people. Learn more these and other volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Permits are required; see page 14 for details.

YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

Bears quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food *properly*:

• DRIVERS: Never leave any food or scented items in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

• CAMPERS: Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

• PICKNICKERS: Guard your food at all times.

• LODGE GUESTS: Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

• BACKPACKERS: Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

• EVERYONE: Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, *never* try to take it back.

save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See them at visitor centers.

LODGING

SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village (DNPS)**
  Reservations: 888-252-5757
  Front Desk: 559-565-4070
  www.visitsequoia.com. *All year. North of Sherman Tree 4 miles (6.4km). Lodge, restaurant, gifts. Sequoia Park's only center for commercial services in Sequoia.*
- **Silver City Mountain Resort** *
  Summer: 559-561-3223
  Winter: 805-528-2730
  www.silvercityresort.com. *Open May 28 to late October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gasoline.*

KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge (KCPS)**
  Reservations: 1-800-KCANYON
  Front Desk: 559-335-5500
  www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com.
  All year. In Grant Grove. Cabins, hotel, restaurant, gifts, showers.
- **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)
  Reservations: 1-800-KCANYON
  Front Desk: 559-565-0100
  www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com
  Open May 13 to early Oct. In Cedar Grove. Motel, restaurant, public showers, gifts, laundry.

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT

- **Montecito-Sequoia Lodge**
  Reservations: 800-227-9900
  Front Desk: 559-565-3388
  www.mslodge.com. *All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities, swimming.*
- **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)
  Reservations: 1-800-KCANYON
  Front Desk: 559-565-3909.
  www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com
  Open May 20 to early September. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gas.
- **Historic Guard Station** (FS)
  Reservations: 559-338-3222.
  Open late May-November. A cabin in Big Meadows between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.
- **Kings Canyon Lodge** (*Private**)
  Reservations: 559-335-2405
  Open around April 9 through November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Food, cabins, gasoline.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or click "Plan your visit" on the park website, www.nps.gov/seki, & link to "Lodging."

WILDERNESS LODGES

See page 10 for details.

* *Note: These two facilities on private land are not evaluated or regulated by the Park or Forest.*

CAMPGROUNDS

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Check bulletin boards for food-storage instructions & regulations.

Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole can be made up to 5 months in advance, 4am - 4pm PST:
1-800-365-2267 or
http://reservations.nps.gov
International calls: 301-722-1257
TDD: 1-888-530-9796
Fax: 301-722-1174

National Forest/Monument:
Reservations* 1-877-444-6777 or
www.reserveusa.com
Information 1-559-338-2251

KEY TO SYMBOLS

"Nearby" Within 2 miles (3.2km)
✔ Year-round
❂ Summer only
✦ ⊞ + Food storage: These symbols on the chart below tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available in campgrounds. Avoid bringing items that won't fit.

One small box per site: 47" long x 17"deep x 16"high.
✦ One large box per site: at least 47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
⊞ A mix of box sizes.
\+ Additional boxes available for sites to share.

	# of Sites	Daily Fee	Restroom Facilities	Food Nearby	Showers Nearby	Laundry Nearby	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding Stables Nearby	River Nearby	Sequoias Nearby
IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)												
FOOTHILLS AREA — Usually snow free year-round.												
Potwisha ✦ 2100′ Open all year.	42	$18	Flush				✔	❂	✔		✔	
Buckeye Flat ✦ 2800′ - Open 5/21-10/12.	28	$18	Flush				at Potwisha		❂			
South Fork # 3600′ Open all year. No drinking water; non-potable only 5/10-10/14.	10	$12 May - Sept.	Vault								✔	
MINERAL KING AREA — Open May 28 through October 31, weather permitting. No RVs or trailers.												
Atwell Mill # 6650' - Open 5/28.	21	$12	Pit	❂	❂						✔	✔
Cold Springs # 7500' - Open 5/28.	40	$12	Pit	❂	❂			❂	✔	See page 3	✔	
LODGEPOLE AREA — Reservations available for Lodgepole 5/26-9/30/04 & Dorst 5/26-9/7/04. See Reservations above.												
Lodgepole ⊞ + 6700′ Open all year.	214	$18/20	Flush	❂	❂	✔	❂	✔	✔		✔	✔
Dorst ⊞ + 6700′ Open 5/26-9/6/04.	204	$20	Flush				❂	❂	❂		✔	
IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)												
GRANT GROVE AREA												
Azalea ✦ 6500′ - Open all year.	113	$18	Flush	✔	❂			✔	✔	❂		✔
Crystal Springs ✦ 6500′ - Open 5/21-9/15.	62	$18	Flush	✔	❂			✔	✔	❂		✔
Sunset ✦ 6500′ - Open 6/30-9/10.	200	$18	Flush	✔	❂			✔	✔	❂		✔
CEDAR GROVE AREA — Road to area & camping open at noon, April 23. Other facilities remain closed until mid-May.												
Sentinel ✦ 4600′ - Open 4/23.	82	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	✔	❂	✔	
Sheep Creek ✦ 4600′ - Open as needed.	111	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂		❂	✔	
Canyon View ✦ 4600′ - Open as needed. No RVs or trailers.	37	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂		❂	✔	
Moraine ✦ 4600′ - Open as needed.	120	$18	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂		❂	✔	
IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST / GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)												
HUME LAKE AREA — Campgrounds open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.												
Princess 5900′ - Reservations*	88	$15/17	Vault				❂ $7	❂			✔	✔
Hume Lake + 5200′ - Reservations*	74	$17/19	Flush	✔		✔		❂	✔		✔	
Tenmile 5800′ - No water.	13	$13/15	Vault								✔	✔
Landslide 5800′	9	$13/15	Vault								✔	✔
Convict Flat 4000′ - No water. Open 4/23.	7		Vault								✔	
BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS — Most open late May into fall, weather permitting. *Reservable in summer: see above.												
Stony Creek # 6400′ - Reservations*	49	$17/19	Flush	❂	❂	❂		❂	✔		✔	
Upper Stony # 6400′	18	$13/15	Vault	❂	❂	❂		❂	✔		✔	
Horse Camp 7500′ - No water.	5+		Vault					❂	✔		✔	
Buck Rock 7500′ - No water.	5+		Vault					❂	✔			

Fire — a Long-Lost Partner

Have you ever accused anyone of something only to discover later that you were wrong? In parks and forests nationwide, we have learned that a accused vandal is actually an important partner. That partner is fire. Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape because we believed it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences for park resources. It turned out that fire suppression blocked important ecological processes and caused many problems. Two stand out:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires are critical to sequoia regeneration. They create an ash seedbed and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels that would otherwise feed intense wildfires. Occasional hot spots leave openings in the forest that are ecologically important — that is where sequoia trees regenerate. ©NPS Photo

Second, a vast accumulation of dead wood and small, dense white fir trees now increase wildland fire hazards. Natural fires used to burn away these excess fuels. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels cause bigger blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. They burn hotter and are harder to put out.

To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service has taken steps to end this misunderstanding about fire. For over 30 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. When and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires and allow lightning-caused fires to spread naturally to improve resource conditions.

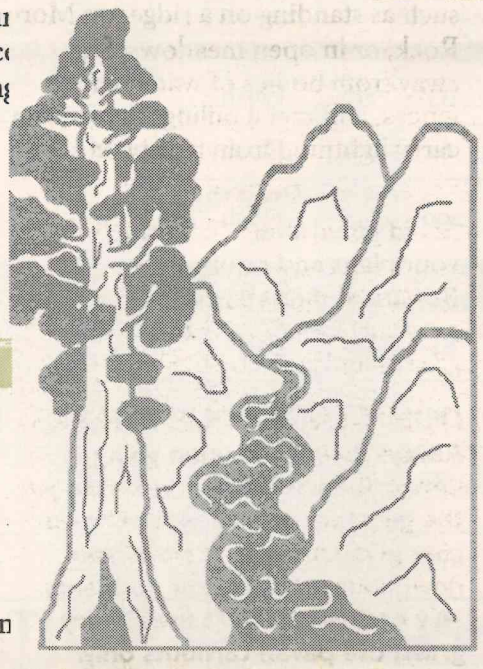
We see strong evidence that working with this powerful natural partner is better than resisting it – we are reducing fuels and stimulating sequoia growth with the help of fire.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Early rangers thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural partner only hurts what we are trying to protect.

HELP US HELP THE PARKS! THE SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Does the sight of a majestic sequoia or the dramatic Kings Canyon take your breath away? Then join an organization that helps to preserve these experience The non-profit Sequoia Natural History Association is dedicated to supporting the parks, enriching *your* experience, and promoting public awareness of the significance of national parks.

SNHA is the primary partner in funding park education and research programs, and helping to support exhibits, ranger programs, and bear protection. The association also operates the bookstores in the visitor centers, Crystal Cave tours, and the Sequoia Field Institute education programs.



MEMBER BENEFITS

- 15% off everything sold in park visitor centers, at Lake Kaweah Visitor Center, the Sierra Nature Store in Visalia, and from the website.
- 10-20% off books at most other national park visitor centers.
- Half-price tickets on regular Crystal Cave tours and a reduced fee on special tours (see page 3).
- Internet access for $13.95 /month, unlimited. No contract or sign-up fee.
- Discounts at selected hotels in Three Rivers.
- Biannual members' newsletter and copies of this Guide mailed to you seasonally.
- An invitation to the annual members' picnic in the sequoias.
- Discounts on Sequoia Field Institute programs.
- The knowledge that you are helping your national parks!

Sequoia Natural History Association
www.sequoiahistory.org
559-565-3759

The Sequoia Fund

Another non-profit group comes to the rescue when limited funds put important park projects on hold.

Beetle Rock, in the Giant Forest, is a great example. This historic building was slated for destruction. Instead, the Sequoia Fund continues to raise money to remake it into a unique classroom facility. As the new Beetle Rock Education Center, it houses the Sequoia Field Institute, which offers outstanding seminars, workshops, and field trips to researchers, school groups, and YOU! Now the Sequoia Fund needs your help to finish the classrooms and make the Education Center complete.

The Fund's efforts on behalf of these parks are numerous: bear-proof food-storage boxes, Junior Ranger programs, research on the threatened Sierra bighorn sheep, habitat restoration, and trail repair. Help turn important goals into reality – contact The Sequoia Fund: 559-739-1668, www.sequoiafund.org.

WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

To preserve the wilderness environment and experience, each park trail has a daily entry quota and a permit is required. Permits are not required for park day hikes or for overnights in the Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in the national forest.

Get permits at the park ranger station nearest your trailhead (see pages 3 & 5). First-come, first-served permits can be issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the afternoon before. If the quota for your desired trail is full, you can choose another trail or another day to start. Reserved permits must be picked up between the afternoon before and 9am on your day of departure. If delayed, call the ranger station or you may forfeit your reservation.

Permits are not issued late in the day since minimum distances must be reached before you camp. Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

An overnight backcountry camping fee is being instituted: $15 for hiking parties and $30 for stock-use parties.

Requests to reserve a trail entry date are accepted starting March 1 and at least 3 weeks before your trip's start date:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
HCR 89 Box 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
559-565-3766; Fax 559-565-4239

Get a copy of *Backcountry Basics* at visitor centers or by mail for free details on wilderness, or see www.nps.gov/seki/bcinfo.htm.

BACKCOUNTRY LODGES

- **PEAR LAKE SKI HUT (SNHA)**
  Reservations required:
  559-565-3759
  www.sequoiahistory.org
  Open December to April. This cabin is a beautiful, strenuous 6-mile ski into the wilderness.
- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP (DNCPR) www.visitsequoia.com**
  Reservations required:
  888-252-5757. Open June 12 through September 11, weather permitting. A tent hotel at 7800′ on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. Other accidents people cause themselves, through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and other decisions they make.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your hands. Keep alert. Watch where you step. Read the warnings below and on bulletin boards, and ask a ranger for advice.

Be Safe!

RISK & RESPONSIBILITY

DROWNING is the #1 cause of death in national parks. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming.

TICKS: Common in foothill grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a ranger's and/or doctor's advice.

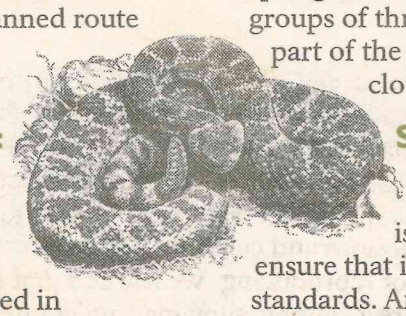
PLAGUE: Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

HYPOTHERMIA: This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

LIGHTNING: As soon as you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible.

Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from bodies of water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

SAFE PARK TRAVEL: Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Beware of uneven or slippery surfaces. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Share roads and trails with others: cars, bikes, walkers, and wildlife all travel here. Check your planned route for potential avalanche areas.



RATTLESNAKES: Watch where you put your hands and feet. Most common in the foothills, rattlesnakes are protected in parks. Most bites result from teasing or trying to handle snakes. Few people die from bites, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; callsa ranger or 911.

COUGARS: Mountain lions roam throughout the area. Your chances of seeing one, especially an aggressive one, are very low, but cougars have been known to attack people and pets, so be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead of you. If you meet a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

CARBON MONOXIDE: Never burn charcoal in a tent, camper, or RV. Carbon monoxide, an odorless and colorless gas, can be fatal.

POISON OAK: This common shrub grows in the foothills up to 5000 feet elevation. Red in fall with whitish berries, bare in winter, in spring it has shiny green leaves in groups of three. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes as soon as possible.

SAFE DRINKING WATER: Each of the parks' 13 water systems is tested regularly to ensure that it meets state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers, or call 559-565-3341.

OZONE POLLUTION: The air quality index forecast is displayed in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm afternoon winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, and peak in late afternoon. These peaks occasionally reach "unhealthy" levels, according to state and federal standards. Ozone forms in sunlight from gases in car and factory exhaust. This statewide problem challenges us all to reduce pollution.sleds, skis, cars, bikes, snowmobiles, and on foot.

OPERATION NO-GROW

- Prevent illegal marijuana growing in parks
- Protect visitor & employee safety
- Preserve our natural resources
- Promote your National Park experience!

Keep your parks safe and free from illegal activities! Please report any suspicious activities to 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

UNSAFE WATER: Giardia, a protozoan in lakes and streams, causes intestinal problems. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria or Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil river or lake water for at least 3 minutes.

Mountain Driving

TRAFFIC DELAYS - SEQUOIA

Expect up to 1-hour delays on the Generals Highway between Hospital Rock and the Giant Forest. See page 5 for details.

ROAD CONDITIONS

24-hour recording: 559-565-3341 then press 9, then 4.

EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS

Need towing? Call 24-hour park switchboard: 565-3341 then press zero. AAA: For out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs - *In Sequoia* call 565-4070 (24-hour); *in Kings Canyon call 335-2135.*

STAY ON PAVEMENT

To protect soils & plants, you must park & travel on pavement only.

DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES

Always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows you down, but may prevent accidents. Hot brakes can start fires in dry grass; use paved turnouts only.

LENGTH ADVISORY

On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum legal length limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. An alternate route is Hwy 180 from Fresno, a straighter, less steep, and wider road. If you are towing a car, try camping in the foothills and using it to explore.

LET OTHERS PASS

Slower vehicles must use paved turnouts to let traffic pass.

FINDING GASOLINE

No gas stations within the park; park markets sell cans of emergency gas only. Buy gas in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- **Stony Creek Village 559-565-3909: 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi and Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.**
- **Hume Lake Christian Camps 559-335-2000: 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north from Grant Grove via Hwy 180.**
- **Kings Canyon Lodge 559-335-2405: usually 9am-dark, call to confirm. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.**

STILL-ICY ROADS

Spring storms & cold nights can mean slick roads. Slow down on icy roads; don't make sudden moves.

MOTORCYCLES

Avoid oil buildup in the center of the uphill lane.

NARROW WINDING ROADS / SEASONAL OPENINGS

IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST / SEQUOIA MONUMENT–

Panoramic Point Road: Reopens ~April 30.

Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, rough. Not plowed.

IN SEQUOIA –

Mineral King Road: Open May 28-October 31, weather permitting. RVs/trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: Reopens late spring.

Crystal Cave Road: Opens May 8, weather permitting. RVs & trailers not recommended.

South Fork Road: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

BICYCLES

Ride only on roads (not trails), single file with traffic, and wear light-colored clothes after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

AREA MAP

- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Horses/riding
- Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

LIFE ZONES

High Sierra zone
9,000 to 14,500 feet
Summer: Warm to chilly days; nights down to low 30s. Winter: frigid.

Conifer zone
5,000 to 9,000 feet
Summer: Warm days & cool nights. Winter: deep snow.

Foothills zone
1,500 to 5,000 feet
Mild, wet winters; hot, dry summers. Cedar Grove is cooler than the foothills, hotter than Grant Grove.

STEEP ROADS

Grades of 5-8%. Downshift to avoid overheated or failed brakes. See page 11.

DRIVING TIME

IN GOOD WEATHER

FOOTHILLS TO:

Giant Forest 1 hour (expect traffic delays - see page 5).
Lodgepole 1 hour.
Visalia 1 hour.
Mineral King 1-1/4 hours. Road open May 28 to Oct 31.

GIANT FOREST TO:

Grant Grove 1 hour.

GRANT GROVE TO:

Cedar Grove 1 hour. Road opens mid-April to Nov.
Fresno 1-1/2 hours.
Yosemite's south entry via Hwy 41 3 hours.

SPRING 2004
SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651
www.nps.gov/seki

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